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(54) Title: A TOPICAL PREPARATION FOR THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF LESIONS AND SORES ASSOCIATED WITH A HERPES VIRUS

(57) Abstract

The invention provides a topical pharmaceutical composition for the prevention and treatment of lesions and sores of the skin or mucosa associated with a herpes virus, comprising a carboxylic or dicarboxylic acid or a salt thereof as active ingredient therein, in combination with a pharmaceutically or cosmetically acceptable carrier.

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**AMENDED CLAIMS**

[received by the International Bureau on 24 January 1996 (24.01.96);  
original claims 1-3 amended; remaining claims unchanged (1 page)]

1. A topical pharmaceutical composition for the prevention and treatment of lesions and sores of the skin or mucosa associated with a herpes virus, comprising a salt of a carboxylic or dicarboxylic acid having up to 18 carbon atoms as active ingredient therein, in combination with a pharmaceutically or cosmetically acceptable carrier.
2. A topical pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein said salt is selected from the group consisting of linoleates, elaidates, myristates, oleates, malonates, succinates, adipates, pimelates, maleates and fumarates.
3. A topical pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein said salt is a water-solubilized C<sub>14</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> carboxylic acid salt.
4. A topical pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein said carboxylic acid salt is an oleate.
5. A topical pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, further comprising a carboxylic or dicarboxylic acid in combination with said acid salt.
6. A topical pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, further comprising a polyhydroxy compound.

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